



Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 15 to page 9, line 2 with the following amended paragraph.

Hitherto, valves have been attached through pipework to the towers by means of screwed unions or gaskets. These are difficult to seal and are prone to subsequent leakage. More advantageously, embodiments of the present invention may use O-rings located in nozzles of the towers to provide a-seals with the manifolds. These O-rings serve two purposes in that they not only provide compound sealing between the manifold and the vessel towers, but that they also captively hold desiccant support screens in place in the towers so that the manifolds can be removed from the towers without fear that the desiccant beads will fall out of the towers, thus making maintenance a much simpler task.

Please replace the paragraph at page 9, lines 16-23 with the following amended paragraph.

At least one of the manifolds preferably includes a "demand" valve that comprises a spring-loaded piston. Gas will meet the piston and, only when the gas pressure is sufficient, the spring will be compressed and the piston moved in the direction of the gas flow to allow it to enter a gas passage revealed only when the piston is depressed. This ensures that the pressure within the dryer is adequate as it will not function if the pressure is too low.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 13-15 with the following amended paragraph.

A preferred embodiment of the connection block according <u>to</u> the second aspect of the present invention is shown in <u>figure-Figure-2</u> as a plan view.

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, line 20 to page 14, line 1 with the following amended paragraph.

A preferred embodiment of the dryer according to the first aspect of the present invention is shown in FIG. 3. For the purposes of this description, a heatless down-flow dryer is used as an example. However, it will be <u>realised</u> that the invention is not restricted in application to dryers of this type.

Please replace the paragraph at page 16, line 11 to page 17, line 1 with the following amended paragraph.

In operation, suppose initially that the first tower 13 is being used to dry the incoming gas and the second tower 14 is being regenerated having been saturated in the preceding drying cycle. Gas enters the connection block via aperture 9 and flows though the gas passage to the inlet 11 to the manifold 15 as shown in FIG. 4. Alternatively, there could be a conventional inlet pipe connected to the manifold. The wet gas is then directed to the second manifold at the base of the towers. The shuttle valve in the second manifold would be positioned so as to direct the incoming gas stream into the first tower 13. The gas flows through the tower back to the first manifold where it meets a second shuttle valve 20 which will be positioned so as to allow flow of the gas to the outlet 12 and then out of the manifold into the gas passages of the connection block.